



EXHIBIT 10  
DATE 2/18/2011  
HB 572

## Montana Dental Association

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Constituent: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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#### *Executive Director*

Mary K. McCue, J.D.

February 18, 2011

To: House Business and Labor Committee  
Fr: Members, Montana Dental Association

A greater number than two dentists are required on the Board of Dentistry to perform duties that only a licensed dentist can perform, including regional board representation and examinations of dental students for licensure, investigations for anesthesia permits, representation to other examining groups, and professional expertise in dealing with the many dental issues that arise before the Board.

The scope of procedures dentists provide is much greater than the other licensees. There are eight specialties in dentistry represented by only five dentists on the Board. Dental hygienists are trained to do only several procedures. Denturists are trained only to fabricate and place dentures. Dentists are trained to do these same procedures plus many others. They perform extractions, root canals, complex facial surgeries, orthodontia, oral pathology, crown and bridge work, dental implants, fillings, periodontal surgery, dental anesthesiology, and laser dentistry.

Dentists do not hold a majority on the current Board, and often vote with the denturists and dental hygienists on their issues. There are 10 board members with only five dentists. Changing the Board as proposed will result in a dramatic change in the balance of power on the Board. It will place control of the Board in the hands of denturists and dental hygienists who generally vote as a block.

There are only 19 licensed denturists and 731 licensed dentists. Two denturist board members representing 19 licensees would mean denturists would be vastly overrepresented on the Board.

The current Board structure works well, there is no need to change it.

The denturists are bringing the bill because they are unhappy that they don't always get the Board to vote the way they request. Neither the dentists nor the dental hygienists always get what they want before the Board. We urge you not to change the current composition of the Board and let the three groups work out their differences under the current structure.

*The mission of the Montana Dental Association is to represent the interests of the members of the dental profession and to promote the art and science of dentistry, so as to improve the health of Montanans.*